

STUDY LINKS WELLS' POLLUTION TO DISPOSAL PRACTICES IN PAST

By JOHN KENDALL

Times Staff Writer

After weeks of investigation, the Regional Water Quality Control Board's staff has concluded that the pollution of some Los Angeles area wells with trichloroethylene (TCE) is probably due to past industrial practices and not to current use of the industrial solvent.

Raymond M. Hertel, executive officer of the Los Angeles area board, said in a report released Thursday that the investigation disclosed "no clear source" of contamination by TCE, a suspected cancer-causing agent.

The board began its investigation Jan. 7 when four wells in the San Gabriel Valley were found to be contaminated with TCE, which is used as a cleaning solvent by some industrial concerns and dry cleaners. The federal limit for TCE in water is 5 parts per billion. The state Department of Health Services eventually closed 59 wells, most of them in the San Gabriel Valley, because the TCE concentration was above the federal limit.

By late April, according to the water quality control board's report, board investigators had inspected 233 industries, 56 of which either had used TCE or are still using it.

"The current users of TCE, very limited in number and quantity," the report said, "do handle and dispose of this solvent properly. It is difficult to get an accurate picture on the past use and disposal of TCE."

Hertel said, "There is an indication the problem resulted from past industrial practices 15-30 years ago."

(Wrightwood, California)

PAGE 8

APRIL 30, 1980

MOUNTAINEER PROGRESS

Trip to JPL

A trip to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena is on tap for the third-fourth combination, fourth, fifth and sixth grades at Wrightwood School on May 6.

Two buses will transport the students to Pasadena. Besides the one bus provided by the district additional funds to rent the second bus were collected from various private sources, including personal donations from the School Board, members, parents, and the PTA.

The excursion was arranged by Dan Sidwell of JPL on Table Mountain who also lives in Wrightwood. The students will view various exhibits and multi-media presentations on work done at the laboratory.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1980

Satellite Control Center Planned

COCOA BEACH, Fla., May 3 (UPI) — The Air Force plans to build its own satellite control center in the Colorado Springs area to protect national security in classified missions of the Space Shuttle, Maj. Gen. James H. Marshall said Thursday. The Consolidated Space Operations Center will cost \$500 million to \$700 million and begin operations in 1985, he said.